



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 23 October 2007

Current Nationwide



[For info click here](#)

- *USA Today* reports that changes in a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) policy, requiring pre-employment background checks for all new employees, are stirring controversy among airport representatives. Prior to October 1, when the new rule was enforced, the employees were issued IDs and could begin working while the clearances were pending. Because of the change, some airports reportedly do not have enough staff to process passengers or check people and luggage. (See item [10](#))
- According to *The Associated Press*, Georgia's governor declared a state of emergency Saturday for the northern third of the state and asked President Bush to declare it a major disaster area. The emergency declaration might lead to the use of state funds allocated for drought. (See item [22](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy; Chemical; Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste; Defense Industrial Base; Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping; Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *October 22, Bloomberg* – (Texas) **Citgo carries out three-day maintenance at Corpus Christi Plant.** Citgo Petroleum Corp., the U.S. refining subsidiary of Venezuela's state oil company, is carrying out three days of maintenance at its Corpus Christi, Texas, refinery, according to a Texas Web site. The maintenance, which requires repairs and testing on a unit

linked to a boiler stack, begins at 4 a.m. local time today until 4 a.m. on Oct. 25, the company said in a filing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. The refinery is located about 235 miles (378 kilometers) southwest of Houston, and is the smallest of three the company operates in the U.S. The Corpus Christi refinery has a processing capacity of 156,000 barrels of oil a day.

Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601072&sid=aeWyl6xqeud0&refer=energy>

2. *October 22, PR Newswire* – (National) **Report: America's efforts to add more ethanol to gas tanks will fuel little more than inflation.** America's policy of adding more ethanol to the nation's gas tanks in an effort to increase energy self-sufficiency will do little but drive food prices skywards, finds a new report from CIBC World Markets. The report states that to meet the policy goal of significantly increasing U.S. production of ethanol to reduce dependence on imported oil, federal and state governments are extending huge subsidies to ethanol producers to expand capacity and to corn farmers to supply the crops needed to make the fuel. This diversion of an ever-increasing share of the American corn crop from human consumption and livestock feed to energy production is putting steady and unrelenting pressure on food prices. Ethanol is used as an additive to gasoline, and can comprise as much as 10 per cent of the fuel mixture in standard automobiles. Ninety-five per cent of the ethanol produced in the U.S. is distilled from corn. The U.S. administration has set a target to raise ethanol production from a level of roughly one billion gallons a year in 2000 to 35 billion gallons a year by 2017.

Source: <http://money.cnn.com/news/newsfeeds/articles/prnewswire/TO12622102007-1.htm>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *October 22, PhysOrg.com* – (California) **Cal Tech Electronic Nose innovation.** The Chemistry and Chemical Engineering Division at California Institute of Technology are combining efforts with NASA and other engineers at Cal Tech to test ranges of applications. The Lewis Group, a division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at Cal Tech, has a working model of an electronic nose. The efforts of Cal Tech scientists has led to an array of simple, readily fabricated chemically sensitive conducted polymer film. An array of broadly-cross reactive sensors respond to a variety of odors. However, the pattern of differential responses across the array produces a unique pattern for each odorant. The electronic nose can identify, classify and quantify when necessary the vapor or odor that poses a concern or threat. The range of uses for the electronic nose in a commercial setting is phenomenal. The electronic nose could provide a remote sensing device for oil and gas exploration, generators, electrical generators and any type of manufacturing setting where an odor or vapor may be the first signal of a malfunction. The Cal Tech Nose has shown the ability to function well in normal room temperatures and varied settings. It can detect an odor and then, by robotics, turn its attention to the odor or vapor it identifies as a concern.

Source: <http://www.physorg.com/news112269287.html>

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *October 22, CNN* – (California) **Nuclear sub crew faked inspection records.** Six Navy personnel on board the nuclear-powered submarine USS Hampton have been punished for forging inspection records for the cooling system of the ship's nuclear reactor, Navy officials said Monday. The misconduct was discovered on September 17, but was made public after completion of an initial investigation. One officer and five enlisted personnel received a "non-judicial punishment" after other Navy personnel discovered their actions, according to Navy officials. The crew neither maintained inspection records nor conducted the required inspection of the chemical levels associated with the cooling system, the Navy officials said. The crew then went back and falsified existing records to make it appear the work had been done, the officials added. "There is not, and never was, any danger to the crew or the public," the Navy said in a statement. A fact-finding investigation is under way, and further action against Navy crew members is possible, a navy official said.

Source: http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/10/22/sub.misconduct/index.html?section=cnn_latest

5. *October 21, Rockford Register Star* – (Illinois) **Leaks shut down Byron nuclear plant.** Repairs will continue this week on a leaky water-cooling pipe that has kept the Byron nuclear power plant shut down since Friday. The shutdown is the first time both power generators have been offline at the same time since the mid-1990s, said the communication's director for the Byron Generating System. The power station could be down for an extended period, but the communication's director declined to speculate how long. He said the leaks did not constitute an emergency situation, but other pipes would be inspected to see if they too needed repairs. The faulty pipe was found during an inspection Friday morning and the power station was shut down later that day.

Source: <http://www.rrstar.com/homepage/x1302706007>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *October 22, Newsday* – (National) **EDO gets another contract for anti-bomb devices.** EDO Corp., the Manhattan-based defense electronics contractor that supplies devices to counter roadside bombs in Iraq, has received a \$95.2 million contract for an additional 1,250 of the systems, the Navy announced Monday. EDO, which recently agreed to be acquired by ITT Corp. of White Plains, is the only U.S. manufacturer of what are called CREW 2.1 devices, which are designed to counter Improvised Explosive Devices that are a prime cause of death among American troops in Iraq. The Navy said it has exercised an option for the CREW 2.1 systems "to meet urgent Department of Defense requirements in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom." The Navy is the manager of the CREW program for the Department of Defense.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/business/ny-bzedo1023,0,1209230.story?track=rss>

7. *October 22, Northrop Grumman* – (National) **Northrop Grumman introduces new geospatial data appliance for defense and intelligence operations.** Northrop Grumman Corporation has added a new product to its suite of geospatial applications that will benefit U.S. defense and intelligence agencies and their international allies. The Commercial Joint Mapping Toolkit (CJMTK) Geospatial Appliance provides users with new ways of accessing

National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) unclassified domestic and international products. The CJMTK Geospatial Appliance combines NGA products with commercial software, providing application-ready data for developers and end users of geospatial information. This enables access to a complete set of worldwide geospatial information used for supporting command and control, emergency operations, humanitarian assistance, conflict resolution, intelligence and special operations, and other defense-related activities.

Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/pz/071022/129228.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *October 22, The Associated Press* – (National) **Study IDs identity thieves.** A study conducted by the Center for Identity Management and Information Protection at Utica College and funded by the Department of Justice revealed that approximately 3 million Americans are victims of identity theft every year. The study, which analyzed cases between 2000 and 2006, also found that “42.5 percent of offenders were between the ages of 25 and 34, another 18 percent were between the ages of 18 and 24, two-thirds of the identity thieves were male, and nearly a quarter of the offenders were born outside the United States.” Moreover, “eighty percent of the cases involved an offender working solo or with a single partner,” the report found. It seemed that most of the methods used by fraudsters did not involve the internet. A large percentage said they only stole “fragments of personal identifying information, as opposed to stealing entire documents, such as bank cards or driver’s licenses.” The study also found that “insider” employees were the offenders in just one-third of the cases. Employees who stole identity information often worked in the retail industry, the report found.

Source:

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071022/ap_on_re_us/identity_theft_study;_ylt=AmOIs50Fmlrhf28iRm0xx5as0NUE

9. *October 21, The Associated Press and The Dallas Morning News* – (National) **Grocery chain loses \$10 million in e-mail scam.** Supervalu, a Minnesota-based supermarket chain, received two emails from people posing as American Greetings Corp. and Frito-Lay employees, who asked payments to be sent to new bank accounts. The store complied and wired \$6.5 million to the fake American Greetings account and almost \$3.6 million to the phony Frito-Lay account. Fortunately, the F.B.I. intercepted the transaction before it was finalized and captured the money. However, American Greetings, Frito-Lay and Supervalu are now disputing which company should receive the money. No one has been charged yet.

Source: http://www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/bus/stories/DN-supervalu_22bus.State.Edition1.27d66b9.html

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Transportation Sector

10. *October 22, USA Today* – (National) **Airports object to latest background checks.** A new Transportation Security Administration (TSA) policy, which requires all new airport hires to undergo background checks before they are issued ID cards, came under harsh criticism

recently. The law, which took effect October 1, was criticized by two airport associations because the imposed clearances take too long. “Businesses are contemplating shutting down because of the inability to bring on new employees,” said the president of Airports Council International in a letter to the head of the TSA. Airport officials voiced their fears that critical operations, including flights, might slow if the TSA does not revise the policy. “This exacerbates the whole problem of not having enough staff to process passengers or check people out at stores,” said the director of Las Vegas’ McCarran International Airport, where 500 people, who have been offered jobs, are presently waiting for their background checks. Before October 1, airport officials were allowed to issue ID cards to their employees, while the TSA was doing the checks. If the workers were not cleared, their IDs were revoked.
Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-10-21-airports_N.htm

11. *October 22, Newsday* – (National) **Travelers split over plan to cut Kennedy delays.** Travelers voiced split opinions following a U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) proposal that JFK Airport in New York reduce the number of takeoffs and landings to 80 per hour from the current 100. Some fear that reducing the number of flights will cause an increase in fare prices. Others applaud the DOT suggestion because it will help congestion, make airlines more reliable, and reduce the waiting period in airports. Federal officials scheduled a meeting this week with airlines representatives to discuss Friday’s proposal. Previously, officials representing commercial air carriers and the Port Authority, which runs Kennedy, expressed their disagreement with the proposed changes.
Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/transportation/ny-nyjfk225427287oct22,0,2167446.story>
12. *October 22, The Associated Press* – (National) **NASA won't disclose air safety survey.** According to anonymous sources interviewed by *The Associated Press* (AP), NASA conducted an \$8.5 million project, which concluded that safety problems, like near collisions and runway interference, are more serious than the government has previously admitted. According to a senior NASA official, the report remains undisclosed because “revealing the findings could damage the public’s confidence in airlines and affect airline profits.” Furthermore, NASA implied pilot confidentiality as another reason why the report was not made public. Some of the project results include “at least twice as many bird strikes, near mid-air collisions and runway incursions as other government monitoring systems show,” and a higher number of “in-close approach changes” -- last-minute instructions to change landing plans. When questioned about the report, NASA officials said that their findings were not worrisome enough to notify the Federal Aviation Administration immediately. On the other hand, an FAA spokeswoman said the agency is doubtful of the methodology used for the project. Nevertheless, experts consider that the survey results might be a valuable tool in identifying unreported safety concerns.
Source:
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20071022/ap_on_re_us/air_safety_secrets;_ylt=Ajgpi4n44OOjQrYt.OXZiTiG2ocA
13. *October 22, The London Free Press* – (Michigan) **Flight hit with emergency.** A plane flying from London, England to Detroit, Michigan made an emergency landing at Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Michigan when the smoke indicator went off in the cockpit. Because the flight was international, the U.S. customs and border protection officials were alerted to

come and screen the 23 passengers and 3 crew members on board, who were subsequently transported to Detroit in vans. It is not clear why the detector went off; investigators are examining the plane.

Source: <http://lfpres.ca/newsstand/News/International/2007/10/22/4595236-sun.html>

14. *October 22, The New York Times* – (National) **Inch by inch, Great Lakes shrink, and cargo carriers face losses.** As the water levels in the Great Lakes fall, cargo ships must reduce the weight they carry, thus causing revenue loss for companies. For example, Lake Ontario is seven inches below last year's level, and for every inch it loses, ships must reduce their loads by 270 tons. Consequently, companies are investing millions of additional dollars in more ships to transport their cargoes. According to the Army Corps of Engineers, water levels in all five Great Lakes "are below long-term averages and are likely to stay that way until at least March." The Great Lakes see 240 million tons of cargo travel annually. According to the director of the Port of Oswego Authority, "water transportation was still one of the most efficient alternatives for companies that rely on bulk cargo."

Source: http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/22/nyregion/22oswego.html?_r=1&oref=slogin

15. *October 21, WJHG News Channel 7, Panama City* – (Florida) **Train derailment.** Officials announced the evacuation of residents near where a train heading to Pensacola from Chattahoochee, Florida came off the rails on Friday. The evacuation was designated solely as a precautionary measure because one tanker had "some kind of acid." The clean-up of the unknown acid was expected to take 7 to 8 hours.

Source: <http://www.wjhg.com/news/headlines/10704156.html>

16. *October 20, The Washington Post* – (National) **IEDs seen as rising threat in the U.S.** Homeland Security officials expressed concern over the lack of national coordination and prevention actions among federal agencies with regards to improvised explosive devices (IEDs), which are, according to the Homeland Security secretary, terrorists' "weapons of choice." According to a report, explosives-sniffing dogs are trained differently by various agencies, federal agencies maintain separate databases on bomb incidents, and bomb squads undergo inadequate training. Despite these problems, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) invested \$1.7 billion in grants related to IED threats, trained port workers at 16 major locations, and deployed thousands of trained explosive detectors at airports. To illustrate the reality of a possible IED threat, the DHS secretary pointed to a Jordanian who tried to enter the U.S. in 2003 at Chicago's O'Hare Airport, and, later, in 2005 had been involved in a suicide car-bombing in Iraq. The secretary also stressed the importance of intelligence gathering "to disrupt the long chain of events needed to deliver a bomb."

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/19/AR2007101902703.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report.

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Agriculture and Food Sector

17. *October 22, Michigan Farmer* – (National) **Shift to corn may reverse in 2008.** With the demand for corn booming because of ethanol, many farmers shifted more acres to corn this year– planting fewer acres of soybeans, according to the USDA’s chief economist. In 2008 the trend may be the opposite, due to higher prices for wheat and soybeans. Demand for all these crops will continue to be very high with prices near or above record levels. The economist says farmers should enjoy the good times but save the windfall, because the history of the agricultural economy is cyclical and downturns will come.
Source: <http://michiganfarmer.com/index.aspx?ascxid=fpStory&fpsid=30527&fpstid=1>
18. *October 21, Ventura County Star* – (National) **After last year’s E. coli spinach scare, farmers are adding rules to ensure cleaner crops.** The nation’s farming industry, led by California, is creating regulations for itself at a time when federal regulators are not. The agricultural industry started working on its plan after last year’s E. coli spinach contamination, which caused 104 hospitalizations and three deaths. Farmers lost more than \$100 million in sales and are still losing money with Mexico still hesitant to buy American spinach. It became clear to industry officials that the Food and Drug of Administration (FDA) did not have the manpower or funds to act swiftly to prevent another contamination and recall. The model being eyed for this plan is the Western Growers’ Leafy Greens Marketing Agreement, which is a voluntary system in California that Dole last year agreed to abide by. Western Growers has been promoting legislation that would give federal regulators power to enforce a similar system nationwide for handlers of leafy greens. Industry leaders would like to see standards applied to imported produce as well, because Americans are eating more imported fruits and vegetables. Currently, about 15 percent of the U.S. food supply is imported, and fresh-fruit imports account for 50 to 60 percent of that portion.
Source: <http://www.venturacountystar.com/news/2007/oct/21/after-last-years-e-coli-spinach-scare-farmers-to/>
19. *October 21, ABC 11* – (North Carolina) **Cary Food Lion recalls beef.** More than 230 pounds of ground beef from the Food Lion in Cary, North Carolina has been recalled due to potential metal contamination. One customer complaint was received, but no injuries have been reported. All the beef had a sell by date of 10/22/07.
Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wtvd/story?section=local&id=5718607>

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Water Sector

20. *October 22, Chicago Sun Times* – (Illinois) **Gulp! How safe is our water?** A private security company’s unarmed guards have been removed from Chicago’s two water filtration plants amid concerns about safeguarding Chicago’s drinking water. According to sources from the city hall, Water Management employees found gaping holes in the company’s performance, “They were sleeping. They weren’t where they were supposed to be. The change really was necessary to protect the integrity of the plants. It’s not like guarding salt piles. This is one of the highest terrorist targets in the country.” Although the company no longer guards the two water filtration plants, it is still responsible for pumping facilities and Department of Water

Management repair and maintenance facilities, which are considered less-sensitive facilities. The vice president of the private security company stated that the criticism of its employees was not fair and that they had “‘not been given a clear reason’ for why the employees were pulled from the...filtration plants.” The \$13.3 million security contract is currently being rebid. Until a new contract is awarded, city employees, serving as watchmen, will guard the plants. Source: <http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/614148,CST-NWS-water22.article>

21. *October 22, Providence Business News* – (Rhode Island) **Infrastructure needs funds for immediate repairs.** Rhode Island’s aging water and sewer infrastructure poses significant environmental and health risks that will increase in the coming years, and the state’s municipalities do not have enough money to address the problem, according to a national report being circulated by the state’s most visible environmental watchdog group, Save The Bay. In particular, the need to upgrade overtaxed wastewater treatment plants, and failing water and sewer lines throughout the state, far exceeds federal funds available for the projects, according to the report. One of the clearest signs that Rhode Island’s aging water and sewer infrastructure is stressed beyond capacity is the sharply increased number of beach closings and advisories in recent summers, as health officials close the state’s beaches to protect beachgoers against elevated levels of bacteria associated with fecal contamination, Save The Bay’s director of policy and advocacy said. Save The Bay is working with state lawmakers, local land trusts, and watershed groups throughout the state to get a bond issue on the 2008 ballot. There is limited federal funding available for water and sewer projects, but only for those states that can match the grants. Historically, Rhode Island residents have overwhelmingly approved similar clean-water bond issues; the last one that was put before voters and approved was in 2004.

Source: <http://www.pbn.com/stories/27942.html>

22. *October 21, The Associated Press* – (Georgia) **Georgia seeks water disaster declaration.** Georgia’s governor declared a state of emergency Saturday for the northern third of the state and asked President Bush to declare it a major disaster area. He also asked the president to exempt Georgia from complying with federal regulations that dictate the amount of water released from Georgia’s reservoirs to safeguard federally protected mussels downstream. More than a billion gallons of water is released from Lake Lanier, the main water source for Atlanta, every day. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers bases its water releases on the minimum flow needed for a coal-fired power plant in Florida and mandates to protect two mussel species in a Florida river. The governor said the state has not yet formed a contingency plan in case the reservoirs run dry. “The backup plan is to conserve and use our water wisely,” he said. The state’s environmental director stated that “the emergency declaration creates an emergency team that will oversee the state’s response to drought. It also could free up some state money to respond to the drought.”

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5iYOMIAzXREFVjcYtNagkheasCXwAD8SDBERO0>

23. *October 21, The News Journal* – (Delaware) **State asks for water conservation.** The governor of Delaware declared a statewide drought watch Saturday, signing an executive order calling on residents to conserve water voluntarily as concerns about a worsening local and regionwide drought grow. Rain shortfalls range from 7 inches to nearly 11 inches across Delaware over the past 180 days, or as little as 54 percent of normal amounts. Federal

agriculture officials already have declared the dry weather a disaster for the state's farms, qualifying growers for assistance. The drought watch is the first step in a three-stage drought operating plan approved after the 2002 drought. The second stage calls for a drought warning and continued mostly voluntary conservation appeals, followed by a drought emergency and mandatory curbs on water use. State officials have said public water supplies and reserves are adequate for now, but conditions are following a track similar to those leading up to the drought of 2002.

Source:

<http://www.delawareonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071021/NEWS/710210448/1006/NEWS>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *October 22, The Intelligencer* – (West Virginia) **Valley health officials advise caution.**

Recently, outbreaks of MRSA, a dangerous type of staph bacteria that is resistant to antibiotics, have been reported in Connecticut, Indiana, New Hampshire and New York. Prompted by the reports of several MRSA staph infections in the Ohio Valley, officials with Marshall County, West Virginia schools are reinforcing the prevention and treatment procedures necessary to protect students from the dangerous bacteria. The purpose of the meeting was to lay out a definite plan as to how educators, parents and staff are made aware of the disease, what the symptoms are and how infection can be avoided. Today, school principals, maintenance personnel, resource officers, nurses, athletic coordinators, the parent resource agency and other staff members in the system will meet with school officials to receive instruction on how to spread awareness.

Source: <http://www.theintelligencer.net/page/content.detail/id/501269.html>

25. *October 22, Rapid City Journal* – (South Dakota) **2007 second-worst for West Nile.** The six West Nile related deaths in South Dakota this year make 2007 the second-worst year for the disease in the state, according to the South Dakota state epidemiologist. He noted that three or fewer people have died yearly since 2003, when 14 South Dakotans died and more than 1,000 others fell ill. This is also the second-worst year for the number of neuro-invasive cases of West Nile. There have been 48 reported cases of this more serious form of West Nile, which attacks the brain or spinal cord or both, and can result in paralysis and death. In 2003, the worst year on record, there were 171 cases of neuro-invasive West Nile virus in South Dakota. Many of those were in the Rapid City area.

Source:

<http://www.rapidcityjournal.com/articles/2007/10/22/news/top/doc471bf19ec074d820619092.txt>

26. *October 20, PR Newswire* – (National) **Blood donations in U.S. testing positive for Chagas' disease.** In the ten months since the U.S. Food and Drug Administration licensed the first blood-screening test for Chagas' disease, some 241 blood donations in the United States have tested positive, indicating donor exposure to the parasite known to cause the serious and potentially fatal infection, according to data Saturday at the annual meeting of American Association of Blood Banks (AABB). The test is manufactured by Ortho-Clinical

Diagnostics, Inc. Chagas'-positive donations have been reported in 34 states with the highest concentration in California, Florida and Texas, according to data compiled by the AABB. During presentations at the conference today, blood safety experts also said they are investigating new cases of transmissions of Chagas' disease that may have occurred through blood transfusions and via insect bites from bugs known to carry the parasite. Such cases have been extremely rare, or have gone undocumented, in the United States. Public health authorities in the state of Arizona have now made Chagas' a "reportable" disease. Three southern states are considering similar action. A reportable disease is one that must be reported to federal, state, or local health officials when diagnosed.

Source: <http://sev.prnewswire.com/biotechnology/20071020/CLSA00520102007-1.html>

Government Facilities Sector

27. *October 22, CNN* – (District of Columbia) **Dozens of Capitol Hill protesters arrested.** On Monday, dozens of protestors were arrested for blocking the doors and streets outside of congressional buildings near the U.S. Capitol. The spokeswoman for the U.S. Capitol police said that nearly 60 were arrested on various charges, including unlawful assembly. More than 100 people were protesting both the war in Iraq and U.S. policy on global warming.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/POLITICS/10/22/capitol.hill.arrests/index.html>

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Emergency Services Sector

28. *October 19, WUSA9* – (District of Columbia) **DC Fire and EMS dealing with staph infection.** It is not just schools and hospital dealing with staph outbreaks. Three recruits of DC Fire and EMS are being treated for a possible outbreak. The Department's medical director says he has confirmed one case of staph and two likely cases. He does not know if this is MRSA, the methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, the first case was reported last week. A recruit discovered skin irritation on his elbow. The doctor says since then the training academy in Southwest has been decontaminated. Now, with two more recruits reporting irritations on their elbows, the department is considering a second round of cleaning. Because of close quarters and shared equipment, it is not unusual for training academies like DC's to be hit with a spreading infection. Last year, the Prince George's County Police Department had a difficult time ridding its facility of staph. Nine recruits and three instructors were infected and the class was given a two week break before it was brought under control. So far, DC is not talking about shutting down the recruit class. The first recruit is already back in class, on antibiotics and with his elbow covered.

Source: [http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/DC-Fire-and-EMS-Dealing-With-Staph-Infection/1\\$6400](http://www.emsresponder.com/web/online/Top-EMS-News/DC-Fire-and-EMS-Dealing-With-Staph-Infection/1$6400)

29. *October 19, The Associated Press* – (National) **Chertoff: terror drills needed but some results must be secret.** The Homeland Security secretary on Thursday defended large terrorism drills like the one that had been occurring in Oregon and several other states last week, but said some details of what is learned from such exercises have to remain secret for the country's security. "We don't necessarily want to reveal all of the weaknesses or

vulnerabilities we've detected and put it on the Internet," said the official. He spoke at a news conference during the fourth day of a weeklong exercise called TOPOFF, for "top officials," a counterterrorism and natural disaster drill ordered by Congress in 2000 that is run nationally every two years.

Source:

<http://www.argusobserver.com/articles/2007/10/19/news/doc4718f3144f72e570502804.txt>

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Information Technology

30. *October 22, IDG News Service* – (National) **With attack code circulating, RealPlayer fix coming.** One day after Symantec researchers discovered software that attacked a critical unpatched vulnerability in RealNetworks' media player, Real says that a fix for the issue is imminent. "Real has created a patch for RealPlayer 10.5 and RealPlayer 11 that addresses the vulnerability identified by Symantec," wrote RealNetworks General Manager of Product Development in a Friday blog posting. "Real will make this patch available to users via this blog and our security update page later today," he said. Users of RealOne Player, RealOne Player v2, and RealPlayer 10 should upgrade to the 10.5 version of the product or the RealPlayer 11 beta code and should install the patch, he said. The attack exploits a flaw in an ActiveX browser helper object, software that RealPlayer employs to help users who are experiencing technical difficulties, so the PC must be using the Internet Explorer browser to be affected by this particular attack, Symantec said. The attack only works on Windows systems, RealNetworks said. Linux, Mac and RealPlayer 8 users are not affected. Attackers were using a complicated network of advertising Web sites to launch the attack from a Web site that has been spotted hosting malicious code several times over the past two years, Symantec said. Users who do not have the patch can turn off ActiveScripting within IE as a workaround to the problem. Very technical users can also set kill bit on the Class identifier (CLSID) FDC7A535-4070-4B92-A0EA-D9994BCC0DC5 to disable the ActiveX control, Symantec said.

Source: http://www.infoworld.com/article/07/10/22/RealPlayer-fix-coming_1.html

31. *October 22, Computerworld* – (California) **IT staff acts as wildfire advances on Pepperdine's data center.** The CIO of Pepperdine University had little warning that a wildfire was soon to threaten the campus' data center when he woke without power at 5 a.m. Sunday. Within a matter of hours, brush fires came within 100 feet of the data center -- and there was a point, he said, where "we had serious concern that the data center itself was going to be jeopardized." The CIO quickly left for the data center and, as he drove to it, could see light from the fire on the other side of a ridge. Other administrators were responding as well, and by 5:30 a.m., the campus administration had called a meeting of the university's Emergency Operations Committee. Wildfires are an ongoing threat in the area, and the university is prepared for that contingency, as well as other threats. It routinely sends its backup tapes to Iron Mountain Inc. for protection. In addition, the latest tape backup copies were moved to a fireproof safe. The ERP applications were shut down, and the hard drives were removed and also safely stored. All that work was completed in 35 minutes, he said. It was still before 8 a.m. While the IT staff scrambled, the fire advanced toward the data center building and nearby university administration building. Firefighters from Los Angeles County

and other jurisdictions acted immediately. There were about 25 firefighters in the way of the advancing fire “whose entire goal was to protect the buildings,” he said. “They were able to contain those fires and keep them from spreading further,” he said. Pepperdine’s University Data Center never went offline, ensuring the campus of network services, including voice communications.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9043421&intsrc=hm_list

32. *October 21, IDG News Service* – (National) **Storm Worm now just a squall.** The Storm Worm’s days may be numbered, according to a University of California researcher. The researcher said that, despite the intense publicity that the Storm network of infected computers has received, it has actually been shrinking steadily and is a shadow of its former self. On Saturday, he presented his findings at the ToorCon hacker conference in San Diego. Storm is not really a computer worm. It is a network of computers that have been infected via malicious e-mail messages and are centrally controlled via the Overnet peer-to-peer protocol. The researcher said he has developed software that crawls through the Storm network and thinks that he has a pretty accurate estimate of how big Storm really is. Some estimates have put Storm at 50 million computers, a number that would give its controllers access to more processing power than the world’s most powerful supercomputer. But the real story is significantly less terrifying, he said. In July, for example, he said that Storm appeared to have infected about 1.5 million PCs, about 200,000 of which were accessible at any given time. He guessed that a total of about 15 million PCs have been infected by Storm in the nine months it has existed, although the vast majority of those have been cleaned up and are no longer part of the Storm network.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&articleId=9043419&intsrc=hm_list

33. *October 19, CNN* – (International) **Official: International hackers going after U.S. networks.** About 140 foreign intelligence organizations are trying to hack into the computer networks of the U.S. government and U.S. companies, a top counterintelligence official said. The national counterintelligence executive told CNN it is not accurate to blame only the Chinese government for recent penetrations of government computer systems. Because it is easy for hackers to disguise where an attack originates, he said, the best course of action is to tighten up one’s own networks rather than to place blame. The nation’s electronic systems are too easy to hack, and the number of world-class hackers is “multiplying at bewildering speed,” he said. That, he said, has transformed the nature of counterintelligence: “If you can exfiltrate massive amounts of information electronically from the comfort of your own office on another continent, why incur the expense and risk of running a traditional espionage operation?” He also warned that hackers could create chaos by manipulating information in electronic systems the government, military and private industry rely on. “Our water and sewer systems, electricity grids, financial markets, payroll systems, air and ground traffic control systems ... are all electronically controlled, electronically dependent, and subject to sophisticated attacks by both state-sponsored and freelance terrorists,” he said. The government must develop a better system for warning the private sector and universities about

attacks, he said, and some laws might need to change: “We’ve got to rethink the adequacy of our legal authorities to deal with the cyber thieves and the vandals who I call the Barbary pirates of the 21st century.”

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/10/19/cyber.threats/index.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

34. *October 21, IDG News Service* – (National) **AT&T sues Vonage for patent infringement.** - AT&T Inc. on Friday filed a lawsuit against voice-over-IP (VoIP) provider Vonage Holdings Corp. seeking damages for alleged patent infringement. The lawsuit comes just days after Vonage settled a patent-infringement lawsuit with telecommunications provider Sprint Nextel Corp. In a filing with the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, AT&T alleged that Vonage willfully infringed an AT&T patent related to telephone systems that allow people to make VoIP calls using standard telephone devices. In the legal filing, AT&T said it tried to reach an agreement with Vonage to license the patent but failed, which forced the lawsuit. Vonage announced on October 8 that it settled its suit with Sprint Nextel for \$80 million. As part of that agreement, Vonage agreed to license VoIP patents from Sprint, including more than 100 patents covering technology for connecting calls from a traditional phone network to an IP network. Vonage is also in the process of resolving a patent-infringement dispute with Verizon Communications Inc. Earlier this year, a court found that Vonage had infringed on Verizon patents and ordered an injunction that could have prevented Vonage from signing up new customers. Vonage won an injunction staying the order and is appealing the original infringement ruling. Vonage in August said it was close to rolling out work-arounds for two of the three patents Verizon claimed. Vonage is one of the largest independent VoIP providers in the U.S., with nearly 2.5 million customers.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9043420&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

35. *October 20, RCR Wireless News* – (National) **FTC works to quash call list urban legend.** The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) faces a dilemma as it once again attempts to kill a wireless urban legend that just won’t die. “The Federal Trade Commission today reiterated that despite the claims made in e-mails circulating on the Internet, consumers should not be concerned that their cellular phone numbers will be released to telemarketers in the near future, and that it is not necessary to register cellular phone numbers on the national Do Not Call Registry to be protected from most telemarketing calls to cellular phones,” the agency stated. While the Do Not Call list accepts registrations of landline and wireless numbers alike,

the Federal Communications Commission has a permanent ban on telemarketers using automated dialers to call cellular phone numbers. There are 145 million wireline and wireless numbers in the registry. The FTC has repeatedly posted “The Truth about Cellphones and the Do Not Call Registry” advisory several times since the program was crafted by the Federal Communications Commission and FTC in 2003. The agencies attribute rumors about telemarketers getting their hands on mobile-phone numbers and other falsehoods associated with the Do Not Call registry to an industry effort aborted several years ago to launch a wireless 411 directory. The FTC does not presently highlight the fact that under current law consumers must re-register with the Do Not Call Registry. The reason is the agency does not know whether legislation to make the registry permanent will be approved by Congress this year. In the meantime, an FTC spokesman said a major campaign to remind consumers to re-register will be rolled out in early 2008 if lawmakers fail to get legislation approved.

Source: <http://www.rcrnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071020/SUB/71019016/1005>

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Commercial Facilities Sector

36. *October 22, CNN* – (California) **California wildfires kill one, force evacuations.** Dry conditions combined with fierce winds fueled wildfires in at least a dozen areas around Los Angeles and San Diego, California threatening homes, forcing evacuations and causing at least one death and 17 injuries. Residents in 10,000 homes around Ramona, California -- northeast of San Diego -- were told to leave their homes late Sunday as a wildfire that began east of them on Sunday had consumed 8,000 acres and was moving closer to their community. The blaze was considered to be zero percent contained. San Diego's Mayor said the wildfire was moving much faster than expected and there was “a very high potential” it would enter his city early Monday. He urged residents in the potential path of the fire to “collect important belongings so they can evacuate immediately.” He said reverse 911 calls would be made by San Diego police to inform residents who should leave their homes. The Pacific Coast Highway remained shut down in Malibu, where several hundred families have evacuated and thousands of homes are threatened. There were also several smaller fires burning late Sunday around Los Angeles.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/10/22/wildfire.ca/index.html>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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Dams Sector

37. *October 20, ABC 7 Chicago* – (Illinois) **Flood-prevention levee project approved in northwest suburbs.** A \$72 million agreement to construct new levees, expand existing rest surgeries and modify a dam will prevent future flood damage in areas along the Des Plaines River. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Natural Resources will work

together on the project, which will protect several neighborhoods that have experienced past flooding. In all, the projects consist of two levees, expansion of two storm water reservoirs, one storage area and one dam modification and will be finished by 2012.

Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/wls/story?section=local&id=5716546>

38. *October 19, Journal Inquirer* – (Connecticut) **Neighbors: Dam job brings sand clouds, toxic fears.** A dam that was breached in 2005 after intense autumn rains is being rebuilt and is causing concern for those living downwind. Residents have complained about the sand and dust in the air, which has decreased visibility to 10 feet, according to one area resident. One of the residents' major concerns stems from the land's prior use as a tobacco field. "The pesticides have been used on this property for over 50 years, including DDT, which has not gone away and is drifting through our neighborhood." The state Public Health Department epidemiologist who has not examined the site but is familiar with the issue of decades-old pesticides, said there might still be small amounts of pesticide in the soil. She did not view it as something she would be particularly concerned about from a long-term health perspective. Griffin Land, the company repairing the dam, states that it is "not only repairing the dam but also improving the basin as a wildlife habitat."

Source:

http://www.journalinquirer.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18935165&BRD=985&PAG=461&dept_id=569436&rfti=6

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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